

THE MIDSTATE NEWS

MIDSTATE
A.R.C.

PUBLICATION October 1985

President - Jack Parker, N8EXK
881-0817

Vice President - Joan Kemp, N8DON
736-0355

Sec/Treas - Tom Carroll, N8AZD
535-8047

Trustee - Darrell Sego, KM8S
736-4049

Activities - Paul Thomas, KA8DTH
881-6338

ARES E.C. - Dan Dews, KK9G
881-9792

NEXT MEETING
November 23, 1985
HOUSE OF FRANKLIN
FRANKLIN, INDIANA

Breakfast: 0730
Meeting: 0800

Merry Christmas, and happy New Year from your editor.

The Midstate News is published by the Midstate Amateur Radio Club, a non-profit organization which provides amateur communications for central Indiana communities, and activities for the active hams. Any and all submissions are welcome, and must be postmarked by the 26th day of the month prior to release. Membership queries should be directed to Tom Carroll, N8AZD at 535-8047. Midstate ARC owns and maintains the N8AZD/R repeater on 146.835 MHZ.

Editor: Bradley Stone, NB9M
Phone: 882-5245

MIDSTATE GAINS NEW FACILITIES 9/85!

A classroom with video recording capabilities. A phone line for future auto patch use. A tower for link/low band antennas. All these things were offered and accepted by the Midstate Amateur Radio Club; in return for our services as communicators when needed by the Hospital Staff.

On the 21st of Sept the monthly Midstate breadfast meeting was held at University Heights, and a check was made by several of our members of the 2 meter environment in the building. Low power H.T. coverage was realized in virtually every location in the building to another. Additionally, the members familiarized themselves with the floor plan of the hospital.

The first hospital activity that involved Midstate was held Saturday, October 26 as a small scale emerency test, supervised by Dave Wendt, KA8DTH and the staff of University Heights.

While KA8OOG also capitalizes on the well equipped classroom facilities for his ongoing novice classes, many club members will begin focusing on the N8AZD autopatch link-up with the hospital line.

To enlist in future University Heights needs, please contact Dave Wendt, KA8OOG at 784-1044. To enlist in the autopatch team, contact the N8AZD/R co-ordinator, Paul Thomas, KA8DTH at 881-6338 or Tom Carroll, N8AZD at 535-8047.

THANK YOU BOB

A big "THANKS!" to Bob Flood, WBBBE for making this issue of The Midstate News possible. His unselfish donation enabled this newsletter to continue until the treasury is reconfigured for the upcoming year.

11/85
4
1

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Packed and well fed, 22 rowdy hams completed with admirable efficiency all the business at hand. Our former President, KA9OTH, graciously accepted a beautiful presidential plaque from KA9OOH to proudly display to his envious friends for a year. The Vice President, N9DON and your editor presented Paul with a certificate of appreciation. WD9HJN won the Kerchunker fund AGAIN. And again, John was not there to claim it! When asked about this peculiar set of circumstances, WD9DVA shrugged and said warily: "Computers don't lie." No one believed him.

After a near unanimous vote, Jack Parker, N9EXK accepted his new position as president with a grin. KA9OTH was handed the activities responsibilities.

Another near unanimous vote will have a decided effect on MIDSTATE ARC in the future: MIDSTATE will work in co-operation with University Heights Hospital, providing emergency communications when needed in return for some marvelous facilities (DETAILS ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE).

Toward the end of the meeting, N9EXK presented the members with a short videotape he compiled of the N9AZD repeater installation, which was up only a week at the time. Jack's talent in recording, producing and editing material was evident: the film was SLICK and professional down to the last detail.

A tour of the repeater facilities followed in Whiteland.

DONATIONS ANYONE?

Donations the past few months exceeded \$150.00, which replaced a lot of sinking spirits in the club officials with motivation to move on. The recent trend for involvement in the club has been refreshing to say the least, and all of us thank each and every one of those who gave where it "hurts the most."

QRM DE NB9M

A 15 year old concept in telecommunications, ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network) is one step closer to reality due to the efforts of an ITT based committee dedicated to the standardization of the hardware and software.

What is ISDN? The idea of the network is simple enough- to provide numerous types of communication on the common twisted pair: your telephone. Voice, SSTV, Videotex, Packet Switching and more commercial modes will soon be employed over existing lines, and all having but a few "trunks", as in a cable television system. Now that some standardization has taken place, primarily in Europe, and more time is being devoted to overcome the technical hurdles by major corporations, ISDN will be operational in a few short years. And it will thrive. Why? After the initial procurement of R&D costs, the network will be a cheap and efficient way for the corporate world, as well as our law enforcement agencies, to communicate effectively.

How does this affect Amateur Radio? With government, law enforcement and health/welfare organizations dependant on one or two lines outside of a major city, they would be crippled after a natural disturbance. Backup systems? Look back at last September's tragic earthquake in Mexico. Amateurs provided the only means of communication to the outside for an uncomfortable period of time. If backup systems are based on existing set-up, no improvement will be apparent at all.

Even after the hurricanes, earthquakes and floods in the recent past, technology continues to trip over itself in the quest for cost effectiveness. This short sightedness makes our hobby more important- in fact, perhaps even more so than a few years ago!

-NB9M

1985 SURVEY RESULTS

The members of Midstate Amateur Radio Club seem to be a pretty happy bunch. The final tally is indicates that all the amateurs that returned the survey felt that the officers were doing their job, and that the N9AZD repeater was doing its job as well. 75% listed an autopatch as a desireable feature, and the other 25% didn't care to see any additions to the repeater at all. Virtually everyone felt that everyone has been well informed about the repeater activities.

92% of the surveys indicated that the members wanted the Sunday night nets to remain the same. 60% felt as if the monthly breakfast meetings at the House of Franklin were convenient. 85% had participated in club activities within the past year, and felt club funds were spent wisely. 90% felt the Midstate News was doing the job, however, several comments were made that the newsletter had too much repeater material. So noted, and thank you!

A staggering 95% of the members retaliated at the concept of raising the club dues. Unfortunately, the question should not have included a monetary figure of \$18, which was an arbitrary figure selected by the editor to determine the clubs response. And, boy did I get a response!! Response is what a survey is all about- and the survey proved to be a valuable means of compiling the members opinions which would, in many cases, remain unvoiced.

A MEETING was held at Jerrys restaurant with N9DON, N9DLN, KA9DTH, N9AZD, KN9E, KM9S, WB9YAJ and N9EXK on Wednesday, October 23, 1985. The main topic was the autopatch, which will be located on the third floor of the University Heights Hospital. A two meter receiver and a 440 transmitter will make up the link, with a 440 receiver at the repeater site. This project will commence the week of 10/28 by KN9E, KM9S, KA9DTH and N9AZD. An update will be made public at each Sunday night net, 7:00pm on 146.835.

-N9AZD, Tom Carroll

N9AZD WOULD LIKE TO THANK:

WBMLN Dan Cammack
N9DZR Ross Marlin
Microwave Devices, INC of Franklin IN

for their contribution and support. These gifts will be put to use on both the repeater autopatch project and the newsletter. Dues will be collected on the December 14th meeting. They are still \$12.00 and can be mailed to:

Midstate ARC
P.O.Box 21
Whiteland, IN
46184

As always, thanks for listening.....

N9AZD, Tom Carroll

HAM OF THE DAY

Jay Chrisman, KASMUU

Hailing from Anderson, Jay and his lovely wife Melinda packed their three children, Amy, Jay Jr. and Mike into their old Mercury and moved to Greenwood three years ago. Jay works at RCA as a machine repairman, and Melinda at Lillys.

Jay is presently an advanced class licensee and is studying for the Extra. He spends most of his operating time on the low bands with his TS530. Recently, Jay accepted the "honor" of being assistant editor for the Midstate News, but is best known as the club monkey at antenna parties.

Dues are due 12/14/85

COSMIC ORDER OF RF

Envision a man that has come of age. A ham's ham. Meet Andy Benton. Big time real estate man, active low-bander. Andy Benton: a man who found a frequency in memory that plunged him into the Cosmic Order of R. F...

...Bleep Bleep.... Andy fumbled at the Keypad of his new TR7950, cursing at the factory presets, and at the rain furiously beating on his windsheild. "144.175," he muttered. "Who would use that?" he paused to light a cigarette.

...Di Dah Dit...Beep. A repeater down here? He fumbled for the microphone and gave a quick QRZed.

"Andrew. Your time has arrived."
(beep)

Must be conditions...

"I've come now for you, Andrew."
(beep)

Andy cursed again and squinted at a sign reflecting his headlights.

A newspaper from Virginia packed my new TR7950 securely in it's box. In my haste, I tossed the crumpled headlines aside:

"BRIDGE OUT-DIVERS CONTINUE SEARCH
FOR MOTORIST"

Case in point, of a ham with a rig, a rig with a mission, and a beeper with the reaper- in the COSMIC ORDER of R.F.

-Snidely F Milligan

NEXT ISSUE

Annual project column
Special interview
More Cosmic Order of RF
New HAMBEANS cartoon series
.....and more.....

ACTIVITIES

Our next meeting will be November 16th at the House of Franklin at 8:00am. We will plan the annual holiday message traffic collection at the Masonic and Methodist homes. Also, Steve Abner, KB9B will be speaking on amateur involvement in the 1987 Pan Am Games.

The December meeting is moved up one week due to holidays: the date is Saturday, December 14th. We will go to the above mentioned homes to collect messages following the meeting. Plan to join with us. The residents of the homes appreciate this service very much.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY GATHERING Saturday, December 7th at 7pm, Paul and Helens' QTH- all members and their spouses are welcome. PLEASE RSVP by 12/5! Please bring an horsd'oeuvres and your favorite beverage.

-KABOTH
-PAUL

MIDSTATE ON TOP!

THE final tally of the Field Day efforts put forth by Midstate, as supplied by the November issue of QST pleasantly surprised the most optimistic of us. The results are on the lower left hand column of page 100. Mark, N8EKG our statistics expert, figured out where our 2-year old group stood.

Out of 251 entries nationwide in class 3A, Midstate came in 35th!

Out of 33 9-land entries in class 3A, Midstate came in #3!

Many, many thanks to the efforts on that warm June weekend that no doubt prompted the big boys down south and east to take notice. Mark stated that if more concentration took place on CW, the results would have been even more dramatic. But, he isn't complaining....

EXAMINER EXCERPTS

It is now official! The Midstate Amateur Radio Club will sponsor two examination sessions next year. The tests will be held on April 26 and August 23, 1986

We wish to thank Bob, WB9AYB for making facilities at the Middle School available to us for the examinations on these dates.

Look for a change, at the top, in the South Central Indiana DeVry Examiner Team by the first of the year. After over a year as team leader, KISR is stepping down, thereby handing the reins over to the new generation. Let us all get behind the new team leader, whoever he/she may be.

This will be the last newsletter item to be submitted by KISR. Our thanks go to all of you for supporting what he has attempted to do with the program, and a special thanks to the Midstate ARC, and to Brad for allocating the space for this column.

-KISR, Til Kinser

OUR MIGHTY NEIGHBOR

The WA8VZY repeater is known locally as THE place to go if communication gets rough. One of the most powerful 2-meter systems in the Midwest, if not the country, our own humble repeater is in its shadow.

The WA8VZY repeater first saw life on May 25, 1982 (5-25-82). It was, and still is, supported solely by its subscribers. Bob Hawkins, its creator, polished the repeater bit by bit until it reliably had a 60 mile mobile range. Using a GE Masterpro receiver, transmitter and P.A., the receive antenna is located 680 feet above average terrain, and the transmitter antenna up 520 feet. The E.R.P. is 400 watts, with 275 actual watts output. The D.C. input is a staggering 500watts.

The best D.X. for the repeater so far is Owasso, Oklahoma! When asked about future plans, Bob had to sounded excited about a link-up to the 145.19 repeater in Cincinnati, due to be on line by the time this is printed.

Bob hails from the Cincinnati area, where he served as a broadcast engineer at radio station WKRC. Presently, he is the Chief Engineer (the only one, he adds) of radio station WENS.

The characteristic tapes that used to be heard on the "525" are not in limbo, Bob assures us, and are awaiting modifications in the hardware to control them. The problems of deliberate interference have been addressed by commercially built direction finding gear, and careful ears reporting what they hear to local F.C.C. endorsed monitors.

What does Bob think about our repeater? "It's come a long way in a short time. The most important addition would be a better antenna." Even in light of a tight budget, Bob still emphasized the antenna. "Save up for it," he recommends.

Would you like to join the 145.25 phone patch? Using the Acton exchange, its performance is well known. Send \$18.00 to:

THE MIGHTY 525
P.O. Box 19255
Indianapolis, IN
46219

CODE PRACTICE

The continually evolving 146.925 system, the brainchild of KN9E and KM9S is offering one of the more unusual features of a repeater to Midstate users: computer generated code practice. Thanks to the programming abilities of Darrell, and the interfacing efforts of Dave, you can enter #456# to access it, followed by the number of words per minute after the prompt. The system will send 100 random characters then revert back to normal mode, or the option can be shut down at will with #.

Dave welcomes Midstate users, however caution should be exercised lest these codes fall in the wrong hands.

OCTOBER MEETING

Saturday, October 19 the Midstate members met at University Heights Hospital for breakfast, a meeting and brief tour. The hospital facilities exceeded most peoples expectations, and the personnel were courteous and friendly. The short meeting was highlighted by a new Kurchunker fund winner: its founder, Ed WD9DVA. The redfaced ham was unavailable for comment.

Details for Halloween and Hospital activities were handled, and final T-Shirt orders were taken before the meeting was terminated.

Congratulations to Herb Cummings, a visitor for the past two meetings for passing his novice exam! He's awaiting his new call.

Don't Forget!

Amateur radio call sign plates have to be renewed by December 31st, like last year! The fees are still \$2.00 to apply for renewal or apply for new plate with your amateur call. In either case, the amateur receives a new plate every year.

FROM THE

PRESIDENTS DESK

I'd first like to thank the nominating committee and club members for electing me president. I feel we have a good progressive organization that has growth potential.

Since joining the club a year ago I have seen great improvements made in the quality of the repeater. Keep in mind this is the clubs repeater; it's a toy and should be open to anyone wishing to work with it. New bells and whistles can be added if desired.

To maintain some control over this process I have recruited Paul Thomas, KA9OTH to serve as repeater coordinator. He will oversee any new projects concerning the repeater.

One of my goals in the coming year is to develop greater participation in club events by the entire membership. The club is only as good as its members who participate. Let's continue to add new members to our rolls and make this the best amateur radio clubs in Indiana.

I'm pleased to report that several members have continued to make donations to the President's Fund. This was established so that anyone could make contributions to the club beyond normal dues. This money is earmarked for the special repeater projects.

I am open to any and all suggestions concerning the growth and activities of this club. Let's make it a good one. -N8EXK, Jack Parker

HAMHOCKS

Very clean Collins S-Line, 32S-3 transmitter and power supply, 75S-3B receiver. Tubesters throughout, except for finals. Call Coolie Wells 462-6266 or the editor. \$500.00

Heath SB-200, 10-80 meters, 1200 watts. Call WB9RCI, Tom, at 888-4765 \$250.00

Honda 500cc, 1976 model. \$400.00 or trade for equipment.



PAN AM HAMS

In preparation for the Pan Am games in 1987 one of the areas of research is to determine what are the capabilities of amateurs in the Central Indiana area to communicate. At the present time it is not known to what extent amateurs will be called upon to serve, if any at all. As the technical co-ordinator of the AD-HOC committee preparing for the games, I am doing a preliminary study of types of communications that the area amateurs can provide. I would like to meet with radio clubs, repeater groups or repeater owners/tech committees to better understand who and what is available.

An area of special interest to myself is talking with repeater groups outside of the Marion County area to discuss if there is any interest in linking or networking repeaters for emergency communications or special events.

I will be talking with the Midstate group on the morning of September 16, 1985 at the House of Franklin, 8:00 am. I'm looking forward to meeting all of you.

-KB9B, Steve Abner

N9AZD/V/R

Hopefully the weather will co-operate so N9DLN and KABMUU can get the hard line installed on the tower for the autopatch. N9AZD and N8EKG are relocating the cavities so the emergency battery can be placed below and the newly constructed power supply throw-over panel will be mounted on the rack with the repeater, controller and decoder panel. N8EKG constructed the new emergency panel, which automatically switches over to the battery, after a moment or two, when a power failure occurs.

We have several projects for which we have or have access to the materials but not the manpower. Want to help? Please contact N9AZD (535-8047) or KA9DTH (881-6338).

-KA9DTH,

LOOKING BACK

In its brief 2 year history, the Midstate ARC has exhibited a textbook case of growth according to resources.

In the 1983/1984 year, we were shaking hands and slapping each other on the back while standing in front of a 20 year old G.E. Progress line repeater, coupled into a 5/8 wave whip in N9AZD's garage. Through the planning of KA9OOH and other officers, a fox hunt, pumpkin watch and a bike-a-thon were attended by dedicated members.

For the 1984/1985 year, the N9AZD repeater is utilizing a 100 plus foot water tower, with brand new Melco hardware. People complained, people helped and provided. Tom, N9AZD probed for a Corporate Grant, which resulted in a \$600.00 Boost in the treasury. Additionally, some valuable facilities and utilities were made available at the University Heights Hospital, enabling the club to install expanded repeater capabilities and a classroom area for KA9OOH's endeavors. A small scale "hamfest" and even more activities than the previous year attracted talented people to our ranks. And, already those of us who were squirming uncomfortably around co-workers are smiling with understanding and digging in again. After all, we're good at what we do, and people are taking notice.

TREASURY

CASH ON HAND	22.00
BANK BALANCE	81.27
REPEATER FUND	9.00
DONATIONS	155.00

TOTAL	\$277.27

-N9AZD, Tom Carroll

MIDSTATE NEWS NEEDS YOU!

With the expanding size of the Midstate News, one would think that we're really trying to look for material. The real truth is, we're having to leave a lot of possible articles out, but normally manage to fit them in the following issue. Digging up articles is not hard, while writing for a club like Midstate ARC. Which brings us to the point.

The Midstate News needs contributing editors. One or two columns can be assigned to volunteers, who will write them and submit them. This publication is getting to the point where help would be appreciated. Another thing we need is ideas and suggestions; all will be dealt with on an equal basis, as has been the policy of this publication since its inception. Want to be a roving reporter? Give us your talents!

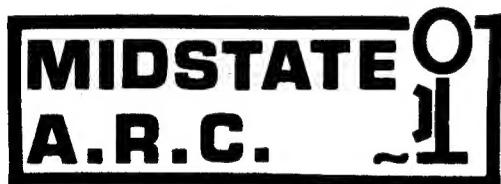
Give me a call at 882-5245. -Brad

**INDIANAPOLIS TESTING OPPORTUNITIES
AMERICAN RED CROSS CHAPTER HOUSE
Contact Louise C. Clark, KA9H
at 241-1272**

Dec 7th, 1985
Feb 1st, 1986
Apr 5th, 1986
Jun 7th, 1986
Aug 2nd, 1986
Oct 4th, 1986
Dec 6th, 1986

BULLETIN BOARD AVAILABLE

Our own WB9TSW, Toby Monk, has informed Midstate computer enthusiasts that a 300 BBS, using a Commodore 64 is available midnight to 5am on weeknights, and weekends from midnight to 8am. The system will prompt you for registration and issue an I.D. on first use. The number is 736-9860



P.O. BOX 21 WHITELAND, IN 46184

PRESIDENTS COLUMN
FOR NEWSLETTER ISSUE FOLLOWING 12/20/85

No doubt about it, winter has come to Indiana. As we all begin to seek refuge in our ham shacks let's not lose sight of the club activities during the new year. Midstate ARC possesses a rare quality: the more activity it has, the more energy it develops. I appreciate the support everyone has given our various projects during 1985. And 1986 should be even more exciting for club members.

As I reflect back on 1985 the phrase "you've come a long way baby" comes to mind. We have a new repeater, a new site, a new frequency, even a new Ham Shack, or at least a building the repeater can call "home". 1986 should be a year to continue our growth cycle. We plan to add a few new bells and whistles to the repeater. The first priority is a phone patch. With a little help from the weather man we might get some of the required hard line and antennas installed before Spring.

Of course, no program is without it's financial burden. My thanks to those who have continued to make extra donations to the President's Fund and the Kerchunker Fund so that we may continue to maintain a solid financial base for repeater improvements.

And let's not forget the unsung heros who have spent many hours working on the facilities and fine tuning the repeater. Without your special efforts none of this would be possible.

Let's all resolve in 1986 to see the club grow in membership and fellowship. Remember, the more members we have the more improvements we can make on our fine repeater system in Johnson County. I know, by working together, we can make the Midstate ARC the best club in Indiana.

My best to each of you in 1986.

--Jack
N9EXK

12/85

(1)